



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

*United States Attorney Donald W. Washington
Western District of Louisiana*

United States Courthouse • 300 Fannin Street, Suite 3201 • Shreveport, Louisiana 71101-3068 • (318) 676-3600
United States Courthouse • 800 Lafayette Street, Suite 2200 • Lafayette, Louisiana 70501-7206 • (337) 262-6618

For Immediate Release
July 14, 2006

Contact: Donald W. Washington (337-262-6618)
William J. Flanagan (318-676-3600)

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/law>

FORMER CORRECTIONS OFFICER SENTENCED FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT ON AN INMATE

Civil rights of former inmate violated

Shreveport, Louisiana . . . United States Attorney Donald W. Washington and Assistant Attorney General Wan J. Kim announced today that **JOHN CHARLES ROBERTS**, a former corrections officer at the Winn Correctional Center in Winnfield, Louisiana was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Dee D. Drell to **spend 72 months in prison** for violating an inmate's civil rights by forcing the inmate to perform oral sex on him, and for making false statements regarding the incident to law enforcement officials. **ROBERTS was also ordered to pay a \$5,000 fine.**

“Those who abuse a position of trust and harm someone entrusted to their custody undermine the efforts and commitment of the vast majority of law enforcement officers,” said Wan J. Kim, Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division. “The Department of Justice is committed to vigorously enforcing the criminal civil rights laws.”

United States Attorney Donald W. Washington stated: “This defendant violated another's civil rights in an abominable and brutal manner. From investigation to prosecution to incarceration,

our system of justice requires officers of the law to remain true to their oaths and completely obedient to the law. We will never tolerate those few officers who fail us. The system of laws we are sworn to serve is also the system that will impose severe punishment for violations of law.”

ROBERTS, age 43, of Winnfield, a former correctional captain at the jail, was indicted in March 2005 and charged with violating the inmate’s right to be free from cruel and unusual punishment, which includes the right to be free from aggravated sexual assault and sexual abuse. ROBERTS pleaded guilty in January just prior to the start of his jury trial. Testimony at the guilty plea hearing established (1) that ROBERTS forced an inmate at the Winn Correctional Center to perform oral sex on ROBERTS, and (2) that during the summer months of 2003 ROBERTS made material false statements to FBI agents who were investigating this matter.

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. United States Sentencing Guidelines established by the United States Congress and the United States Sentencing Commission are only used as guidelines by the judge in determining the appropriate sentence. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Alexandria Resident Agency, and was prosecuted by Barbara Bosserman, trial attorney with the Civil Rights Division, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Sonia P. Cassidy.

#